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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 14
Gender equality and empowerment of women

1. At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 8 and 9 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 14)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the programme. On the whole, they expressed positive views about the programme, emphasizing the high priority given to the implementation of the programme's mandate on gender equality and the empowerment of women. A suggestion was made to consider renaming the programme "Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls".

4. Stress was placed on gender equality being both an end in itself and a prerequisite for global development and just societies, and it was pointed out that

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gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls were at the centre of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The special role and responsibility of UN-Women in the implementation of Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals was highlighted. In that regard, information was sought regarding the specific steps undertaken by UN-Women to reorient its activities and resources in support of the 2030 Agenda.

5. Full support was expressed for the work of UN-Women in the areas of advocacy, normative support and coordination. Support was also expressed for the six strategic plan goals listed in paragraph 14.4, and the view was expressed that it would have been useful if the six goals were more "visible" throughout the framework.

6. Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, a delegation stressed the importance of ensuring greater coherence and accountability and of the role of UN-Women in supporting the implementation of the accountability framework of the United Nations system on gender equality and empowerment of women.

7. The view was expressed that the programme placed great emphasis on intergovernmental actors while focusing less on planning by individual States. In that regard, the importance of national development plans and related support by the Organization was emphasized. The articulation between the normative work and action at the country level was questioned and it was emphasized that UN-Women should work both at the national and the international levels and that the universal mandate of UN-Women implied that activities encompassed both developing and developed countries. On that note, it was stressed that UN-Women should undertake its activities in coordination with the countries involved and that any assistance and support must only be carried out upon direct request by Member States.

8. Several delegations commented on the nature and scope of the indicators of achievement in the framework, including that they measured "process" rather than "impact" and "normative changes", and that they should be strengthened in order to focus more on the level of support provided or actions undertaken by UN-Women rather than on actions by Member States.

9. With regard to subprogramme 1, Intergovernmental support, coordination and strategic partnerships, it was stressed that "intergovernmental support" should be understood as "secretariat support". In that sense, it was reiterated that indicators of achievement must measure the work undertaken by the Organization and not that of Member States. For instance, a delegation pointed out, the increased percentage of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly that integrated gender perspectives as a result of the efforts of UN-Women (indicator of achievement (a) (ii)) was the prerogative of Member States and not an achievement of UN-Women.

10. Under the same subprogramme, information was sought on expected accomplishment (c), namely, whether the indicators of the United Nations system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women were also being reflected in the indicators of achievement. Information was also sought regarding the scope and nature of the "partnerships" referred to in paragraph 14.7 (i) of the strategy.

11. Clarification was sought with regard to the meaning of indicator of achievement (b) under subprogramme 1, in particular the formulation "percentage of spaces and platforms". In that regard, it was stressed that the involvement of civil

society was the prerogative of Member States and that a special procedure existed for the participation of civil society in United Nations conferences.

12. Information was sought regarding the criteria for inclusion of legislative mandates in the text, in particular why agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women had been singled out and the latest mandates were missing.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 14.2

Replace the last sentence with "The programme of work of UN-Women is based on the principle of universality. The achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women is central to the mandate of UN-Women and is addressed across all its priority areas of work."

Paragraph 14.3

In the last sentence, replace "recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are pivotal" with "and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are essential".

Paragraph 14.4

In subparagraphs (e) and (f), replace each reference to "gender equality and the empowerment of women" with "gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

Paragraph 14.6

In the first sentence, replace the reference to "gender equality and the empowerment of women" with "gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

At the end of the paragraph, add "Support for gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system is an integral part of the programme strategy."

Subprogramme 1
Intergovernmental support, coordination and strategic partnerships

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with "Enhanced support from UN-Women for the activities of intergovernmental bodies, especially the Commission on the Status of Women, for the promotion of gender equality

and the empowerment of women, including the integration of gender perspectives into their spheres of activity, as appropriate".

Replace expected accomplishment (d) with "Enhanced capacity to build partnerships for the accelerated achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women through increased awareness".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) (i) with "Increased number of activities aimed at supporting the participation of Member States, upon their request, in the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies, with particular emphasis on the Commission on the Status of Women".

Replace indicator of achievement (a) (ii) with "Increased number of intergovernmental bodies integrating gender perspectives into their spheres of activity, including as a result of the efforts of UN-Women".

Insert new indicator of achievement (a) (iii), reading "Maintenance of the high percentage of required documents submitted by UN-Women on time for consideration by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, including the Commission on the Status of Women, in compliance with the relevant rules and regulations on the issuance of documentation".

Replace indicator of achievement (b) with "Increased number of activities of UN-Women aimed at supporting the contribution of non-governmental organizations accredited by the Economic and Social Council to the Commission on the Status of Women".

Replace indicators of achievement (d) (i), (d) (ii) and (d) (iii) as follows:

(d) (i) "Increased percentage of media and social media coverage of UN-Women's programmatic work aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women".

(d) (ii) "Increased number of activities of UN-Women developed with civil society and other stakeholders that contribute globally to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment".

(d) (iii) "Increased amount of resources mobilized as voluntary contributions to UN-Women".

Paragraph 14.7

In subparagraph (a), after "obligations", add "of the States parties".

Insert new subparagraph (b), reading "Promoting efforts to reach gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, ensuring managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance, including through appointments to senior positions;".

Renumber the remaining subparagraphs.

In subparagraph (c) (formerly (b)), delete "substantive and", and after "equality", add "and empowerment of women".

In subparagraph (h) (formerly (g)), after "as well as", add ", where appropriate, ".

In subparagraph (j) (formerly (i)), after "strategic partnerships", add "with relevant stakeholders".

Subprogramme 2
Policy and programme activities

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective of the Organization with "To enhance efforts in the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and the achievement of gender equality in, inter alia, the fields of development, human rights and peace and security, including by leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in this regard".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with "Enhanced capacity of UN-Women to effectively support, upon the request of Member States, national mechanisms for gender equality, service delivery institutions and civil society organizations in order to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and to protect women's human rights".

Replace expected accomplishment (c) with "Increased capacity to lead and coordinate the United Nations system at the country level in supporting Member States, upon their request, in the implementation of commitments to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, empower women and achieve gender equality".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) with "Increased number of policies and actions taken and/or supported by UN-Women, upon the request of Member States, at the national and regional levels to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women".

Replace indicator of achievement (b) with "Increased number of UN-Women activities related to strengthening capacity development provided, upon the request of Member States, to national mechanisms for gender equality, service delivery institutions and civil society organizations".

In indicator of achievement (c) (i), after "participation", add "and/or assistance".

In indicator of achievement (c) (ii), replace "implement" with "apply".

Paragraph 14.8

In subparagraph (b), replace "as requested" with "upon their request", and after "equality" add "and the empowerment of women".

In subparagraph (c), replace "as requested" with "upon their request".

Legislative mandates

Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women

Add "2016 Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development".

Executive Board decisions

Add "2014/1 Harmonization of reporting cycles".